

Message Text

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12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 132225Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINT
SUBJECT: STATE OF SIEGE CONTINUED UNCHANGED

1. THE "DIARIO OFICIAL" OF SEPTEMBER 11 PUBLISHED DECREE LAW 1550, EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS THE STATE OF SIEGE AT THE "LEVEL OF INTERNAL SECURITY" (LEVEL THREE OF FOUR UNDER STATE OF SIEGE). THE DECREE LAW CONTINUES THE SAME LEVEL OF EMERGENCY AUTHORITY INVOKED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1975 (75 SANTIAGO 6272), WHEN THE LAST REDUCTION IN THE GRADE OF EMERGENCY WAS MADE, AND PROLONGED FOR SIX MONTHS ON MARCH 11, 1976 (SANTIAGO 1963).

2. COMMENT: ON THE TWO PRIOR SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARIES, THE GOC REDUCED THE LEVEL OF THE STATE OF SIEGE. BASED ON THIS PRECEDENT AND COMMENTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THE EMBASSY HAD THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THIS YEAR ALSO THE LEVEL WOULD GO DOWN, FROM THAT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (THIRD LEVEL) TO SIMPLE INTERNAL UNREST (FOURTH LEVEL. WE ARE THEREFORE PUZZLED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO REDUCE IT, GIVEN THE DOMESTIC STABILITY CURRENTLY RESIGNING. WE SEE THE FOLLOWING AS POSSIBLE REASONS:

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A. THE NEWLY-PROMULGATED CONSTITUTIONAL ACTS (SEPTTEL)

ARE CHANGING THE SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY AUTHORITY. THE GOC
MAY HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO TINKER WITH ITS ALREADY COMPLEX
AND MURKY CURRENT AUTHORITY UNTIL THE NEW SYSTEM GOES FULLY
INTO EFFECT.

B. IN THE GOC'S VIEW THE CURRENT INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION
DOES NOT ALLOW A LOWER OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.
POPPER

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